

IN THE CLAIMS

Claim 1. (Original) A method for treating hepatitis comprising administering to a patient in need thereof an effective amount of a compound that neutralizes the effect of secreted TNF alpha.

Claim 2. (Original) The method according to claim 1 wherein the hepatitis is selected from the group consisting of hepatitis A, hepatitis B, hepatitis C, hepatitis D, and hepatitis E.

Claim 3. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 1 wherein the compound that neutralizes the effect of secreted TNF alpha ~~is~~ affects neutralization by inhibiting p75:FC ~~inhibitor~~.

Claim 4. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 3 wherein the compound that inhibits p75:FC inhibitor is etanercept.

Claim 5. (Original) The method according to claim 1 wherein the compound that neutralizes the effect of secreted TNF alpha is a humanized monoclonal antibody.

Claim 6. (Original) The method according to claim 5 wherein the compound is inflixamab.

Claim 7. (New) A method for treating hepatitis comprising administering to a patient in need thereof an effective amount of a compound that reduces viral levels in the patient.

Claim 8. (New) The method according to claim 7 wherein the compound is a compound that neutralizes the effect of secreted TNF alpha.

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Claim 9. (New) The method according to claim 7 wherein the hepatitis is selected from the group consisting of hepatitis A, hepatitis B, hepatitis C, hepatitis D, and hepatitis E.

Claim 10. (New) The method according to claim 8 wherein the compound that neutralizes the effect of secreted TNF alpha is a compound that inhibits p75:FC.²

Claim 11. (New) The method according to claim 10 wherein the compound is etanercept.

Claim 12. (New) The method according to claim 7

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wherein the compound that reduces the viral level is a
humanized monoclonal antibody.

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Claim 13. (New) The method according to claim 12
whiten the compound is inflixamab.
